

THE GARDEN ISLAND

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ROADS FOR HOMESTEADERS

Roads are absolutely vital to the Homesteader;—in order to do business he must have them.

When he is planting he has to haul in heavy loads of seed;—if it is bad weather and the roads are in bad shape,—he simply can't do it, or does it at a great cost of money and a great loss of time. His planting is delayed,—that means that he gets perhaps only half a crop. One of the most fatal mistakes that a homesteader can make is late planting.

When he is fertilizing he has heavy loads of fertilizer to haul in and distribute. With bad roads, that again means abnormal cost and abnormal waste of time and his crop suffers while his debit account runs up.

The meagre temporary quarters with which he made a start are no longer adequate; in order to hold his labor and shelter his tools and fertilizer from the weather he must have more buildings;—that means lumber, and to get lumber in over bad roads is next to impossible and mighty expensive. He hesitates to tackle the proposition.

Between-times, the ordinary necessities of everyday life for himself and his labor must be secured to keep things going. Bad roads mean delay and uncertainty and high cost of delivery.

The rural homesteader has pretty hard sledding at best with many inconveniences, and many problems, and many drawbacks;—considering that he is developing the country and adding enormously to its taxable value he deserves the encouragement of decent roads.

Good roads are a very desirable convenience for us all, but particularly for the Homesteader. Most of the rest of us can carry on our business much the same whether we have good roads or not. We can sell our goods and run our garages and try our cases and keep our books without much reference to the roads, but the Homesteader can't,—he is dependent on roads, and if he can't get them, ultimately he is likely to go out of business.

THE BAD SPOTS

The Homesteaders roads are particularly bad in spots. Wherever there is a swale or a little hollow the bottom of it is sure to be soft and deep. The wheel ruts lead the water right down into that hollow and it stands there until it becomes a veritable wallow; and every truck that comes along gets into trouble there, and plows it up worse and worse until it becomes absolutely impassable.

We don't presume to advise the Road Authorities as to what to do,—but may we most respectfully suggest that if there isn't money enough to make a good road throughout, at any rate it would be a great boon to the Homesteader to have those bad spots fixed. Manifestly there should be drainage for them, and some rock or other good material put in.

The Winter months are coming. It may be a dry Winter, in which case these roads may be no worse than they have been; but it may be a wet Winter, with constant rains for ten days at a stretch, when some of these roads will be simply impassable.

The wizard, Thomas A. Edison, has undertaken a perilous investigation of the mysteries of that world beyond the grave, by seeking to invent an apparatus of such delicate construction as to enable the living to converse with the dead. If Mr. Edison succeeds in perfecting any mechanical contrivance that will be the means of communication with those who have passed over the "Great Divide", he will have more trouble on his hands than usually falls to mortals on this earth or any other planet thus far heard from. As soon as communication is established and the so-called dead learn the truth of the situation there will be trouble. It will be perfectly natural for the denizens of the spirit world to inquire about their friends on this side and when they are informed that women have been granted the right to unrestricted franchise, that prohibition has become a national law, that eggs are selling for \$1.00 per dozen, and that a man with a family of children cannot find renting property, that the landlords give the "laugh" to the father of a family who applies for rent, the graves will open and the forefathers of this generation will come back with the "Revolutionary spirit" in their hearts and fire in their eyes. Mr. Edison had better go slow. It is difficult to tell what some of those old patriots might do under such outrageous conditions.

The census returns of the U. S. A., which show an increase of 13,710,842 in population bring a problem to the different states, in some

cases to their disadvantage: but as representation is based upon population, there will be an equitable adjustment, regardless of the fact that some states will not have as strong a representation in Congress. If representation is to be continued upon its present basis fifty new seats must be added to the House of Representatives. Should the present membership of 435 be left unchanged by increasing the basis of apportionment there will have to be a transfer of thirteen seats, now held by twelve states, to nine others. If the precedent of the last fifty years is followed, and the size of the House increased to prevent loss of existing representation five additional representatives seats must be given to California; four each to New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan; three to Illinois and Texas; two to New Jersey, Massachusetts and North Carolina; and one to Arizona, Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Virginia, Arkansas and Minnesota.

The present basis of representation is 21,877 and can be increased to 219,427 without causing loss of representation.

There is a strong opposition to any increase in the House, and rather an inclination to reduce what is now considered an unwieldy number.

It is quite probable that there will be some changes with the coming session of Congress.

The appalling ignorance of the Bible among college students was recently demonstrated by Rev. George Craig Stewart, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church at Evanston, Ill., who asked 200 students of the Northwestern University what they knew about Absalom, and found that there were only nine who had ever heard about Absalom, but that 150 of the 200 could tell all about Babe Ruth. Such is college training of the present. The old characters, that were familiar to every boy and girl fifty years ago, have ceased to interest as a fundamental characteristic of an education. Fifty years ago the boy who knew nothing of Absalom was considered not only ignorant but vicious. His Sunday School training at least had been sadly neglected. Today but nine out of 200 had ever heard of Absalom. Something seems to be wrong in the principles of youthful education.

Four hundred and twenty-eight years ago, in the month of August, Christopher Columbus sailed from Palos, in Spain, and on the following October 12th sighted land, and were greatly relieved at the sight of the green trees and the rocky shores of the islands that were the first fruits of discovery in America.

That was a voyage of discovery, yet it cost very little, just \$7,000. Columbus was paid \$300 per year for his services: the Pinzon brothers, \$180 per year, and the crew about \$2.50 each per month. Columbus paid out in wages alone, \$4,400. Other expenses, including cannon for the three ships, ran the account up to \$7,000. The trip lasted from August of one year to March of the next, with the discovery of a new world as a feature, and it is universally acknowledged that never in the annals of history do we find where \$7,000 was spent for a better purpose.

When we realize that the world war cost the people of this country \$30,000,000,000 or \$300 for every man, woman and child in this nation, and that debt must be paid, together with interest, in addition to the current expenses of government, we naturally feel that the strictest economy is necessary to pull us out of the hole, and that there should be no "closed time" upon the grafters, thieves, robbers, or by whatever name you may choose to call the individuals who have robbed this nation right and left.

The war destroyed \$200,000,000,000 of the world's wealth, swept fully 50,000,000 men, women and children into eternity, lowered the morality of the nations of the world, created debts that will burden generations yet unborn, caused serious labor problems, widened the breach between capital and labor, destroyed credits and engendered hatreds that a century of prosperity cannot recover.

The Milwaukee inventor, who has devised a method for taking the smell out of Limburger cheese, is not, in the opinion of epicures, conferring a boon upon mankind. What satisfaction is there in eating Limburger if you cannot smell it? With the deodorizing process will go the glories of the fame of Limburger. Why not try the experiment upon garlic?



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